

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 EB-07 SWF-01 AGR-05

AF-04 ARA-06 NEA-06 RSC-01 OES-03 AID-05 COME-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9432

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORIY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, FAO, WFC

SUBJ: UNGA CONSIDERATION OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 261234

1. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR (KITAHARA) CALLED MEETING WITH
EC (LUYTEN OF COMMISSION, FRENCH AMBASSADOR JEAN
FERNAND-LAURENT) AND US (BRUNGART) ON NOVEMBER 27 TO
DISCUSS UNGA TREATMENT OF WFC DECISIONS CONCERNING ROME
AS SITE OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND FAO AS SERVICING
ORGANIZATION. HE REPORTED THAT ECOSOC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS MAKING

MAJOR EFFORT IN NEW YORK TO OVERTURN ROME DECISIONS AND TO
SUBORDINATE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO ECOSOC. JAPNESE ALSO
UNDERSTAND WALDHEIM PREFERS GENEVA OR NEW YORK TO ROME.

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JAPANESE FELT SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNFORTUNATE

SINCE IT WOULD PLACE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IN UNCTAD-LIKE LDC-DOMINATED ATMOSPHERE, AND THEIR REPORTS FROM NEW YORK LED THEM TO BE CONCERNED THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MIGHT ACQUIESCE. JAPANESE CABLES FROM NEW YORK INDICATED THAT CANADA AND THAT FINLAND WERE ALREADY TENDING IN THIS DIRECTION AND THAT US POSITION WAS AMBIGUOUS. AMBASSADOR FERNAND-LAURENT INDICATED FRENCH REPORTS FROM NEW YORK REPORTED US, SWEDEN, EGYPT, ALGERIA AND JAPAN WERE ALL FIRMLY INSISTING IN NO CHANGE FROM ROME DECISIONS BUT PAKISTAN, JAMAICA AND FINLAND WERE TAKING MORE FLEXIBLE LINE.

2. US DESCRIBED OUR BASIC POSITION AS SET FORTH REFTTEL, STRESSING THAT WE DESIRE PROMPT UNGA ENDORSEMENT OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT ALTERATION AND WITHOUT EXTENSIVE DEBATE. ACCORDINGLY, WE ASSUMED JAPANESE REPORT OF OUR NEW YORK POSITION BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING. WE ASKED EC WHETHER THEIR POSITION WAS ALSO IN FAVOR OF MAINTAINING ROME RESOLUTIONS. LUYTEN REPORTED HIS INQUIRIES IN BRUSSELS LED HIM TO CONCLUDE THAT COMMUNITY WAS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH ROME OUTCOME AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SUBSEQUENT EC DECISIONS TO CHANGE THIS. HOWEVER, HE WAS UNABLE TO ASSERT FLATLY THAT EC POSITION WAS SAME AS OURS. AMBASSADOR FERNAND-LAURENT STATED THERE WOULD BE EC COORDINATING SESSION FRIDAY MORNING IN NEW YORK JUST BEFORE ECOSOC MEETING. LUYTEN MADE POINT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR GROUP B COUNTRIES TO STICK TOGETHER SINCE IF SOME STARTED TAKING SEPARATE POSITIONS, HARD TO TELL WHERE THIS WOULD STOP. KITAHARA AGREED AND INDICATED HE WOULD TAKE UP REPORTED CANADIAN SOFTNESS IN NEW YORK WITH CANADIAN DELEGATION HERE.

3. DURING CONVERSATION, FERNAND-LAURENT SAID DECISION OF LOCATION WOULD OF COURSE DEPEND ON CHOICE OF SERVICING ORGANIZATION. HE THOUGHT ONLY REAL POSSIBILITIES WERE ROME OR NEW YORK IN VIEW SWISS COOLNESS TOWARD LOCATING ANY MORE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA.

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